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DE RUEHSG #0142 0251105  
ZNR UUUUU ZZH  
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FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 0815  
INFO RUEHCV/AMEMBASSY CARACAS 1248

UNCLAS SANTIAGO 000142

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STATE FOR IIP/G/WHA, INR/R/MR, WHA/BSC, WHA/PDA, INR/IAA

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [OPRC](#) [KMDR](#) [KPAO](#) [PGOV](#) [CI](#) [VE](#)

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION - VENEZUELA MILITARY PURCHASES

On January 23, government-owned, financially autonomous TVN "Medianoche": A report by the U.S. Department of Defense reported that between 2005-2006, Venezuela spent more money on military purchases than China, Iran or Pakistan. Some believe this is in defiance of the U.S. Chilean defense analyst Eduardo Santos wrote that the U.S. cannot do anything to slow the military expenditures because Venezuela would stop exporting oil to the U.S., and that the real concern is not the weapons themselves but the ideology behind their purchase. According to defense analyst Miguel Navarro, Venezuela's acquisition of higher technology arms poses a threat because it could provoke an arms race in the region.

KELLY